

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

HON. RICK LAZIO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. LAZIO. Mr. Speaker, it has been four years since the Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to open local markets to competition. While many of us hoped competition would not take this long, it is now beginning to take root. Since passage of the Act, over \$30 billion has been invested by CLECs alone in new networks and there are more than 300 facilities based competitors now versus only 30 in 1995.

The ILECs have also invested tremendously since passage of the Act. Just last month, the FCC approved Bell Atlantic's application to offer long distance service in New York State. This was a landmark decision. I want to congratulate Bell Atlantic for doing what was necessary to open its local markets. The consumers of New York State are the winners. We are already seeing new choices in services and for the first time, competitive choices in local service. Mr. Speaker, the Act is working and it has worked first in New York State.

I want to congratulate many people for the work that they did to give consumers in New York State a choice in local service. First, I want to congratulate the New York Commission that tirelessly worked with all the concerned parties to make sure that the process and the outcome was fair. This process allowed all parties to work through the technical challenges of opening up the local network. Second, I want to congratulate Competitive Local Exchange Carriers that went into New York State a year ago and began offering local residential service on a statewide basis.

Mr. Speaker we are in the beginning of a technology revolution that is sweeping across this country. Since the 1996 Telecom Act, hundreds of new competitive telecommunications carriers have been formed and thousands of new Internet Service Providers are in existence today. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 is a great success and consumers are just now beginning to reap its benefits. I'm proud that New York has led the way, and I look forward to the day when the rest of this country's citizens enjoy the same freedom of choice.

HONORING AMY FINCH, OUTSTANDING YOUNG HUMANITARIAN

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a young Colorado student from my district who has achieved na-

tional recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Amy Finch from Vail has just been named one of my state's top honorees in The 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, an annual honor conferred on the most impressive student volunteers in each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

Amy, a senior at Battle Mountain High School, is an avid community volunteer who has helped raise money for victims of violence, knitted clothes and blankets for refugees, served as a buddy to elementary school children, served soup to the homeless, and volunteered with Special Olympics.

The program that brought this young role model to our attention—The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards—was created by The Prudential Insurance Company of America in partnership with the National Association of Secondary School Principals in 1995 to impress upon all youth volunteers that their contributions are critically important and highly valued and to inspire other young people to follow their example. In only five years, the program has become the nation's largest youth recognition effort based solely on community service, with nearly 75,000 youngsters participating since its inception.

Amy should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of dedicated volunteers. I heartily applaud Amy for her initiative in seeking to make her community a better place to live, and for the positive impact she has had on the lives of others. She has demonstrated a level of commitment and accomplishment that is truly extraordinary in today's world, and deserves our sincere admiration and respect.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I offer this tribute in honor of Amy Finch. Her actions show that young Americans can—and do—play important roles in our communities, and that America's community spirit continues to hold tremendous promise for the future.

THE ILLEGAL ALIEN PROSECUTION ACT OF 2000

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce the Illegal Alien Prosecution Act of 2000. The bill prohibits INS officials from deporting illegal immigrants accused of violent state crimes upon the request of local officials. Additionally, the bill would facilitate the apprehension and prosecution in the United States of criminal illegal aliens who attempt to re-enter the United States.

The United States has become a consequence-free zone for criminal aliens. Flawed deportation policy, less than perfect communication between the INS and county prosecutors, and misguided efforts on the part of local prosecutors and judges to secure adequate

bonds have created a climate where criminal aliens can engage in lawless behavior without the fear of prosecution or incarceration.

The revolving door of illegal criminal aliens committing serious state crimes, being deported, then returning to the United States to commit even more serious crimes is the result of a loophole in the INS' voluntary deportation program. The program is intended to reduce administrative burden on the INS and the courts by expediting the deportation of aliens whose only offense is illegal entry into the United States. Unfortunately, illegal aliens charged with much more serious state crimes such as armed robbery, manslaughter, and drug trafficking are also being deported by this same process, often before they have even faced trial. After they have been returned to their native land these illegal aliens almost never face prosecution or incarceration.

The scope of this epidemic was detailed in a report by the East Valley Tribune which revealed that from October 31, 1998, to July 31, 1999, the INS deported 3,361 illegal immigrants who either made bail or were released before trial. To make matters worse, many of these alien criminals illegally return to the United States and only face prosecution if they commit additional, even more serious crimes.

The effect of this flawed policy has been devastating. In the last two years, two illegal immigrants have shot police officers in the Pacific Northwest after slipping through our immigration system. In one incident, an illegal alien with a vast criminal and deportation history killed an officer in Washington after being released from prison and deported to Mexico 5 months earlier. My home state of Arizona has experienced similar carnage. A deported defendant came back across the border illegally and is one of three men suspected of killing a Phoenix police officer.

And let's not forget the high profile case of Rafael Resendez-Ramirez, the railroad serial killer. INS officers detained him as he attempted to cross the border illegally. But, within 24 hours, they quickly deported him back to Mexico even though the FBI suspected him of being involved in four murders.

As the previously mentioned incidents clearly illustrate, the INS must improve their communication with state authorities. In 1998, the Inspector General notified the INS that only 41 percent of deported illegal aliens were being processed by INS' new border patrol database system. In a letter to INS Commissioner Doris Meissner, he told her that "this results in previously deported aliens (including aggravated felons) being released from INS custody when subsequently apprehended because INS is unaware of their immigration or criminal histories."

Some progress has already been achieved in remedying this breakdown of our criminal justice system. As a result of several meetings that Senator KYL and I have held with local prosecutors, magistrates, and INS officials, actions have been taken in my State to address this situation. Our meetings also prompted Judge Reinstein, the Associate Presiding

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